

**Remarks**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 16-24, 26 and 28-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16-22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31-34, 36 and 37 are allowed. Claims 9, 23, 30 and 35 are rejected. Claim 11 is objected to.

**Objection to the specification**

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to the title set forth above.

**Claim rejections**

**Section 102**

Claims 9, 23, 30 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Jun et al. (JP 09073328) ("Jun"). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Jun cannot support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that Jun does not disclose a voltage of a power source that is caused to remain within a predetermined range which is determined based on the electromotive voltage of the power source, as required by each of claims 9, 23, 30 and 35.

Instead, Jun relates to a system in which output of a DC/DC converter is controlled such that an output of a solar battery remains within an optimum operating range of the solar battery. However, Jun is silent as to what determination of the optimum operating range is based on.

By contrast, in the present invention as claimed, the switching control of the switching element in the voltage conversion device is applied such that the voltage of the power source remains within a predetermined range which is determined based on the electromotive voltage of the power source. Jun discloses neither determination based on the electromotive voltage of the power source nor control of the voltage conversion device to ensure that the voltage of the power source remains within the predetermined range based on the electromotive voltage.

In view of the above, claims 9, 23, 30 and 35 are allowable over Jun. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 23, 30 and 35 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested in view of the amendment thereto set forth above.

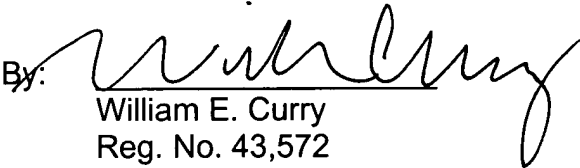
Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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